

SMALL  GROUP

SMALL GROUP LEADER GUIDE

This Is Real Love / Week 2

BEFORE GROUP

BOTTOM LINE

Jesus treats everyone like they are important.

SCRIPTURE

John 20:11-18 NLT

GOAL OF SMALL GROUP

To show students their value, worth, and importance can be found in Jesus and to remind them of the significance of Jesus' resurrection in their lives and faith.

THINK ABOUT THIS

Remember that Easter is a season when some families show up to church after a long absence or even for the very first time. That means the likelihood you'll have new students this week is high. You'll be leading the conversation for students who are coming in with all different backgrounds, perspectives, and understandings of Jesus, the resurrection, and what it all means for their lives. While the heart in leading your middle schoolers is always to help them take important steps of faith, don't diminish what a big step it is simply to show up. If they don't walk away from this conversation confident in what they believe or what Easter means for them, that's okay! The goal is simply to make any student who enters your small group, for the first time or the millionth time, feel seen and important. That way, when they walk away, they do so with the desire to come back and continue the conversation.

This guide is a suggestion, not a formula. Adjust the content as needed, and don't feel like you need to complete everything listed.

DURING GROUP

JUST FOR FUN

In your opinion, who's the most important person in the world right now? Why?

DO THIS (EXPERIENCE 1)

Ask your group to sit in a circle. Hand out the provided affirmation sheet and have each student write their name at the top. Instruct everyone to give their sheet to the person sitting to their right and write down one way the student listed on the sheet is valued, important, or unique. When they're done, have everyone pass their sheet to the person to their right and repeat the steps until the sheets get back to their original owners. Tell everyone to bring their sheet home and use it to remind themselves of their worth and importance, both to Jesus and others!

Tip: If students are having a hard time coming up with something to write on someone else's sheet, here are some suggestions:

- "You are important to Jesus no matter what."
- "You are valued in this group."
- "You make our group better."

DISCUSS THIS

1. On a scale of 1 to 10, how often do you feel important?
 2. What might make a middle schooler feel important with . . .
 - a. Their friends?
 - b. Their family?
 - c. Their teammates?
 - d. God?
 3. What's one way the Easter story shows us that we're important to Jesus?
 4. Does Jesus' resurrection feel important to your life today? Why or why not?
 5. What's one step you can take to . . .
 - a. Believe you're important?
 - b. Show others they're important?
 6. What's one step you can take to remember Jesus' real love is really for you?
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**I AM
IMPORTANT
AND VALUED**

NAME: _____

THIS IS WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK ABOUT ME:

**I AM
IMPORTANT
AND VALUED**

NAME: _____

THIS IS WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK ABOUT ME: